

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A video magnification camera system comprising:
a video magnification camera having a longitudinal axis;
a holder having a length and receiving said camera so that the camera longitudinal axis is parallel to the holder length;
a platform for resting generally horizontally on an object to be viewed by a user, and
slidably receiving the holder so that the holder is slidable laterally across the platform in a direction perpendicular to the length of the holder and the camera longitudinal axis, so that the user may move the camera over various portions of the object to be viewed.
2. The camera system as in Claim 1, wherein the platform comprises a first generally horizontal support surface removably receiving the holder and a first generally vertical guide surface abutting against a portion of the holder for guiding the holder in a lateral direction as the holder slides on the first support surface.
3. The camera system as in Claim 2, wherein the platform comprises a second generally horizontal support surface spaced from said first support surface and removably receiving the holder, so that the holder slides laterally on both first and second support surfaces.
4. The camera system as in Claim 2, wherein the platform comprises a second generally vertical guide surface spaced apart from said first vertical guide surface and abutting against a portion of the holder for guiding the holder in a lateral direction as the holder slides on the first support surface.

5. The camera system as in Claim 3, wherein the platform is a generally planar guide plate with an outer perimeter edge and an interior opening defined at least in part by said first and second guide surfaces, and wherein said first support surface extends generally horizontally into the interior opening from said first or second guide surfaces.

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6. The camera system as in Claim 1, wherein the camera is adjustable in position relative to the holder in a direction parallel to the camera longitudinal axis by means of a threaded connection to the holder.

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7. The camera system as in Claim 6, wherein the threaded connection comprises the camera having an enclosure having enclosure threads, and the enclosure threads engaging a threaded mount ring, wherein the mount ring is rotatably mounted in the holder, wherein rotating the mount ring on its axis moves the camera enclosure up and down relative to the mount ring and the holder.

8. The camera system as in Claim 7, wherein the enclosure has a vertical groove receiving a protrusion extending from the holder to limit rotation of the enclosure on its longitudinal axis when the mount ring is rotated.

9. The camera system as in Claim 1, wherein the platform comprises support and guide means selected from the group consisting of: rails extending from the platform, channels in the platform, and tracks in the platform.

10. The camera system as in Claim 1, wherein the holder distances the camera from the platform resting on the object to be viewed, to increase field of view of the camera.

11. The camera system as in Claim 2, wherein the platform has a bottom resting surface and a thickness from said first support surface to said bottom resting surface, so that the

holder is distanced from the object to be viewed and the holder does not contact the object to be viewed and does not slide on the object to be viewed.

12. The camera as in Claim 1, wherein the platform is translucent.

13. The camera system as in Claim 1, wherein the platform has a resting surface for placement on the object to be viewed, and the resting surface is adapted to frictionally grip the object being viewed.

14. The camera system as in Claim 1, wherein the holder is removably received on the platform.

15. The camera system as in Claim 14, wherein the holder is set on the platform and not attached to the holder.

16. A video magnification camera system comprising:
a video magnification camera having a longitudinal axis;
a holder having a length and receiving said camera so that the camera longitudinal axis is parallel to the holder length;

a platform for resting generally horizontally on an object to be viewed by a user and having an interior opening revealing the object to be viewed;

an extender plate on the platform slidably receiving the holder so that the holder is slidable laterally across the extender plate in a direction perpendicular to the length of the holder and the camera longitudinal axis, so that the user may move the camera over various portions of the object to be viewed.

17. The camera system as in Claim 16, wherein the extender plate comprises an interior opening for alignment with the interior opening of the platform so that the camera field of view extends through both the extender plate interior opening and the platform interior opening.

18. The camera system as in Claim 17, wherein the extender plate comprises support and guide means for supporting and guiding the holder in generally horizontal movement relative to the object to be viewed.

19. The camera system as in Claim 18, wherein the platform comprises support and guide means for supporting and guiding the holder in generally horizontal movement relative to the object to be viewed, when the extender plate is removed from the platform and the holder is placed on the platform.

U.S. CONVENTIONAL UTILITY PATENT
APPLICATION

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Title: HAND-OPERATED READING CAMERA SYSTEM

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